

# Edmund Heming's Propofal,<sup>54</sup>

Humbly Offered for Raifing Eight Millions of Money, making Good the Qualifications mentioned in his Printed Papers delivered to the Members of this Honourable Houfe.

**I**N ENGLAND, according to the moft Exact Computation, being an actual Survey in the Year 1690. the Number of Houfes were—1319215  
From 1690. to the Year 1695. is computed to be new built more—10000  
Houfes Built in all—1329215  
Deduct for Houfes empty, and inhabited by Poor incapable of Paying—529215  
There Remains Houfes capable of Paying Duties—800000

The Duty for Raifing the before-mentioned Sum of Eight Millions, is Propofed to be laid upon one of the moft General, Subftantial, Ufeful, and Neceffary Commodities in England, Exempting none from the Duty but the Poor, viz. Upon BEDS.

There may modestly be computed Five Beds to each of the 800000	l.	s.	d.
Houfes, at 2 d. per Week each Bed, will amount to in one Year—	1733333	6	8
This Duty laid for Four Years and a half, Raifeth—	7800000	0	0
The Computation for Quality may be eafily laid fo as in Four Years and a half } may amount to more—	2000000	0	0
Which added together, makes—	8000000	0	0

## The Qualifications of this DUTY made Good.

That the Poor pay nothing to this Duty, } They are to be Excepted from the Duty, there being 529215  
appears thus : } Houfes Excused for that purpose.

That the Lands are all clear of this } is Obvious.  
Duty,

That this Duty will neither raife nor } The Beds are not Chargeable in the Tradefmens Hands, but  
fall the Price of any Commodity, ap- } in the Poffeffion of the Buyer: So that this cannot injure the  
pears thus : } Seller, neither Raife nor Fall the Price of the Commodity.

That this Duty will yearly increafe } By the increafe of Families, new Buildings, by Marriages,  
and grow greater, appears thus : } and Tradef-men fetting up in their Callings, the yearly In-  
crease may go near to difcharge the Expence in Collecting.

That this Duty will bring no Tradef } No Seller of the Commodity being chargeable with any Du-  
man with Complaints to the door of this } ty, more then for what Beds he makes ufe of in his own  
Honourable Houfe, appears thus : } Family.

That the King cannot be Wronged of } The Numbering of the Beds in each Family is fo eafie,  
the Duty, nor the Subject over-charged, } that it's almoft impoffible to make any Miftake, to the Preju-  
appears thus ; } dice of the King or Subject.

That this Duty may be collected } The Officers that are employed in receiving the Duty for  
without multiplying of Officers, appears } Births and Burials may Collect this, or thofe employed in  
thus ; } the Land Tax.

Objection, The Numbering of the } Answer, It is not intended, but the Affeffors fhall go from  
Beds will occafion Officers to come into } Houfe to Houfe, and the Perfons to be charged fhall give an  
our Houfes ; that will not be endur'd. } account of the Number of their Beds, and make a true En-  
try: And if any Perfon fhall make a falfe Entry, he fhall  
} Forfeit, &c.

Obj. It will be too heavy upon Inn- } Anfw. They fhall be charged for no more Beds than their  
keepers, that lye under Hardships in } own Families ufe.  
Quartering Soldiers, &c.

If Two Pence per Week each Bed fhall be thought too much, Charge each Bed at One Penny per Week, which will amount to Four Millions ; or laid but for Two Years, comes to near Two Millions.